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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ken **Siah** (Singapore)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 27th and 34th meetings, on 3 and 28 March 2014. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/68/SR.27 and 34).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 and programme of work for 2014 (A/68/34) and a note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 (A/68/739).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/68/L.33

4. At its 34th meeting, on 28 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/68/L.33), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Sweden.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/68/L.33 without a vote (see para. 6).

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III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006, 61/238 of 22 December 2006, 61/260 of 4 April 2007, 62/226 of 22 December 2007, 62/246 of 3 April 2008, 64/262 of 29 March 2010, 65/270 of 4 April 2011, 66/259 of 9 April 2012 and 67/256 of 12 April 2013,

Reaffirming the statute of the Unit[1] and the unique role of the Unit as the only external and independent system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body,

Having considered the report of the Unit for 2013 and programme of work for 2014[2] and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Unit for 2013,[3]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013 and programme of work for 2014;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2013;[3]

3. *Reaffirms* that oversight is a shared responsibility of Member States, organizations and the internal and external oversight bodies;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the oversight functions of the Unit in identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions within the participating organizations and providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations to improve and strengthen the governance of the United Nations as a whole;

5. *Recognizes* the need to continue to enhance the impact of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management efficiency and transparency of the participating organizations within the United Nations system;

6. *Notes* the need to enhance the effectiveness of the Unit and its system-wide oversight capability;

7. *Welcomes* the reform efforts undertaken by the Unit to better serve the interests of the participating organizations and Member States, including a self-evaluation, a peer review and the completion of norms and standards, and in this regard encourages the Unit to continue its efforts, including on selection of the

[1] Resolution 31/192, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/68/34).

[3] A/68/739.

subjects for its programme of work, and looks forward to receiving updates in the context of the annual reports of the Unit;

8. *Recalls* section II of its resolution 64/262 and section II of its resolution 61/238, and in this regard reaffirms the existing procedure for the appointment of the inspectors in accordance with article 3 of the statute of the Unit;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the executive heads of the participating organizations to fully comply with the statutory procedures for consideration of the reports of the Unit and, in particular, to submit their comments, including information on what they intend to do regarding the recommendations of the Unit, to distribute reports in time for their consideration by legislative organs and to provide information on the steps to be taken to implement those recommendations accepted by the legislative organs and the executive heads of participating organizations;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the other executive heads of the participating organizations to fully assist the Unit with the timely provision of all information requested by it;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Unit to consider optimizing the number of projects in its programme of work through prioritization;

12. *Also reiterates its request* to the Unit to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized in their deliberations;

13. *Reaffirms* article 20 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, in which it is stipulated that the Unit shall be invited to be represented at meetings when its budget estimates are being discussed;

14. *Requests* the heads of participating organizations to make full use of the web-based system of the Unit and to provide an in-depth analysis of how the recommendations of the Unit are being implemented;

15. *Welcomes* the benefit and utility of the web-based system for tracking recommendations.